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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/765,391

01/28/2004

Anthony Di Bitonto

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03/26/2008

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHONG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/26/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/765,391	Applicant(s) DI BITONTO ET AL.	
	Examiner PHONG H. NGUYEN	Art Unit 3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-8,16,17,20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-8,16,17,20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 16, 17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grassi (4,776,090).

Regarding claim 1, Grassi teaches a nail clipper comprising top and bottom elongated members (14 and 18) forming cutting edges (16 and 20), a post 26, a lever 32 lacking of a hole through which the post extends, and a bumper 42. See Figs. 1 and 2.

Regarding claim 16, the top and bottom elongated members being interconnected at distal ends (22 and 24) are best seen in Fig. 1 in Grassi.

Regarding claim 17, the top and bottom elongated members not being interconnected at distal ends (in the rear area 50 of element 46) are best seen in Fig. 1 in Grassi

Regarding claim 22, Grassi teaches a nail clipper comprising top and bottom elongated members (14 and 18) forming cutting edges (16 and 20) at proximal ends, a post 26, a bumper 42 and a lever 32 lacking of a hole through which the post extends, and wherein the top and bottom elongated members are not interconnected at the distal ends (in the rear area 50 of element 46). See Figs. 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grassi (4,776,090) in view of Litton (Des. 392,419).

Regarding claim 1, Grassi teaches a nail clipper comprising a top elongated member 14 and a bottom elongated member (18 & 42) forming cutting edges (16 and 20), a post 26, and a lever 32 lacking of a hole through which the post extends. See Figs. 1 and 2.

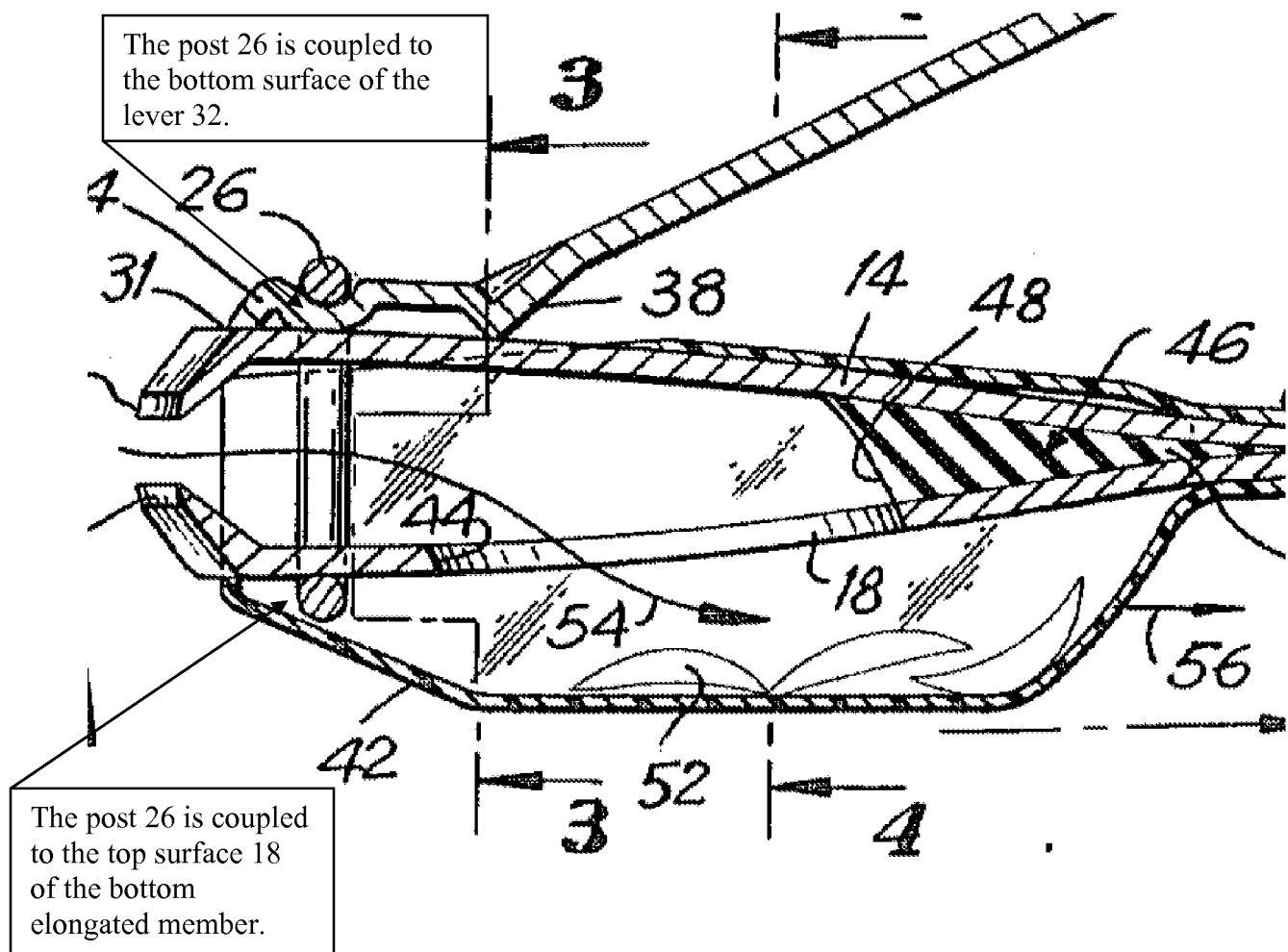
It is to be noted that element 18 of the bottom elongated member forms a top surface and the post 26 is located adjacent to and outwardly of a side surface of the top elongated member 18.

It is to be noted that a recess on the lever 32 forms a bottom surface and a second end of the post 26 is coupled to the bottom surface of the lever.

Grassi does not teach a bumper on the bottom surface of the bottom member 24.

Litton teaches providing a bumper on the bottom surface of a bottom member for comfortably holding the nail clipper. See Fig. 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a bumper as taught Litton to the bottom surface of the bottom member of Grassi so that one can hold the nail clipper comfortably.



Regarding claim 5, a section of the bumper having a triangular shape is best seen in Fig. 1 in Litton.

Regarding claim 6, Grassi teaches the invention substantially as claimed except for the lever having a thumb accepting depression.

Litton teaches providing a thumb accepting depression on the lever for comfortably holding the nail clipper. See Fig. 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a thumb accepting depression as taught Litton to the lever of Grassi so that one can hold the nail clipper comfortably.

Regarding claim 7, the cutting edges of the Grassi's nail clipper being at an angle with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the elongated member are best seen in Fig. 1 in Grassi.

Regarding claim 8, the cutting edges being disposed at an angle to a central longitudinal axis of the top and bottom elongated members are best seen in Fig. 1 in Grassi.

Regarding claim 16, the top and bottom elongated members being interconnected at the distal ends (22 and 24) are best seen in Fig. 1 in Grassi.

Regarding claim 17, the top and bottom elongated members not being interconnected at the distal ends (in the rear area 50 of element 46) are best seen in Fig. 1 in Grassi.

Regarding claim 22, Grassi teaches a nail clipper comprising top and bottom elongated members (14 and 18) forming cutting edges (16 and 20) at proximal ends, a post 26, and a lever 32 lacking of a hole through which the post extends, wherein the top and bottom elongated members are not interconnected at the distal ends (in the rear area 50 of element 46). See Figs. 1 and 2.

Grassi does not teach a bumper on the bottom surface of the bottom member 24.

Litton teaches providing a bumper on the bottom surface of a bottom member for comfortably holding the nail clipper. See Fig. 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a bumper as taught Litton to the bottom surface of the bottom member of Grassi so that one can hold the nail clipper comfortably.

Regarding claim 20, a section of the bumper having a triangular shape is best seen in Fig. 1 in Litton.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-8, 16, 17, 20 and 22 have been considered but are not persuasive. The spatial relationship of the bottom elongated member, the post and the lever are interpreted in paragraph 4.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-4510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

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Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call
800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Timothy V Eley/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724

/P. H. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3724

March 19, 2008